

# CITY OF CHICOPEE

## PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT



STANLEY J. WALCZAK, C.P.R.P.  
Superintendent

RICHARD G. MACIOLEK  
Assistant Superintendent

Minutes of the regular meeting held on August 25, 2009

Commissioners present were: Chairman Gary Ziemba, Vice Chairman Robert Erhardt, Secretary Elizabeth Montemagni and Commissioners Nancy Fenton and Doug Girourad. Also present were Superintendent Stanley J. Walczak and Assistant Superintendent Richard Maciolek.

Chairman Ziemba called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Girourad, seconded by Mr. Erhardt, to approve the June 23, 2009 regular meeting minutes as written.

Motion by Mr. Girourad, seconded by Mr. Erhardt, to receive, place on file or take the appropriate action on the following communications.

**Communications:**

1. Letter from Heather Leigh White.
2. Letter from Pastor Dan Peloquin.
3. Letter from Lisa Thomas.
4. Letters from Bruce Marshall and Allen Tracy.
5. Letter from Tim Cariveau.
6. Letter from Roy LaPlante and Deb Accorsi.
7. Letter from Jeanne Fitzgerald.
8. Letter from Michael Griffin.
9. Letter from Brent Dillard.
10. E-Mail from Bob Richard.
11. Letter from Maria O'Brien.
12. Letter from Paula M. Jenkins.
13. Letter from Kevin Ross.
14. Letters from Chicopee Braves Association.
15. E-Mail from Councilor Timothy S. McLellan.
16. E-Mail from Norman Colon.
17. E-Mail from Paul Williams.

Motion by Ms. Fenton, seconded by Ms. Montemagni, to send a letter to Heather Leigh White of Special Olympics requesting more information on retrofitting a bocce court for handicap players.

Motion by Mr. Girouard, seconded by Mr. Erhardt, to approve a request by Rushing Waters to hold a church picnic at Rivers Pavilion on Sunday, August 30 and concert at Aldenville Commons on September 13 with the usual fees charged.

Motion by Mr. Erhardt, seconded by Ms. Fenton, to deny a request by Lisa Thomas to hold a Tri-Fitness and Obstacle Course at Preston Park. The park is already scheduled for soccer activities.

The U.S.O. Council sent a thank you letter to the department expressing their appreciation for the recent U.S. Air Force concert at Szot Park.

The Commission requested that the Department send a letter to Tim Cariveau regarding the recent problems associated with the Gallagher Cup soccer tournament at Williams Park on August 15.

The Department received a thank you letter from Jean Fitzgerald, Chairperson of the Chicopee National Night Out Committee for the department's assistance at the annual crime prevention event at Sarah Jane Sherman Park.

The Commission tabled a request by Gold Star Soccer Camp to utilize two park facilities for the fall soccer season. The organizer of the camp will be invited to the next Commission meeting.

Motion by Mr. Erhardt, seconded by Ms. Fenton, to deny a request by Robert Richard of the NSF softball league to use Rivers Park on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. The league is composed of non-resident teams and the facility is being used by city teams.

Motion by Ms. Fenton, seconded by Ms. Montemagni, to deny a request by Rainbow Rescues Inc. to hold a fundraising event at Rivers Park for abandoned animals. The Commission felt that the activities planned were not in the best interest of the park.

Motion by Mr. Girouard, seconded by Ms. Fenton, to approve a request by St. Joan of Arc-St. George School to use Ray Ash Park for their annual walkathon on Friday, September 25, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – noon.

Motion by Ms. Fenton, seconded by Ms. Montemagni, to approve the use of Cuddy Field for the Chicopee Fall Softball League starting September 3, for 9 consecutive Thursdays, 5:30-10 p.m. with the usual fees charged.

Motion by Ms. Montemagni, seconded by Mr. Girouard, to approve a request by the Chicopee Braves Football Association to use Szot Park on Saturday, October 10, 2009 for football games. Commissioner Erhardt abstained on the vote. The Department requested that if a concession is allowed for the Association that a menu and product insurance policy be supplied to the department as well as a safe serve certificate.

In a related matter, a letter will be sent to Superintendent Rege to seek his assistance for the Braves Cheerleading Association in utilizing Stefanik School Cafeteria on Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. for practices. A copy of the letter will also be issued to School Committee member Marge Wojcik who represents that area.

The Commission requested that a letter be sent to Councilor Timothy McLellan asking for further information on where off Cinnamon Drive a pathway can be used and who holds title to that property to be utilized. The Commission also stated that Councilor McLellan send a letter to Mayor Bissonnette requesting funding for sani-cans at fall soccer facilities. The Department can provide some financial figures and locations where sani-cans will be best served.

The Commission will seek a legal opinion as to whether any department bleachers can be supplied to the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club because of liability or damage issues. The Commission indicated that bleachers brought to the club will effect our own soccer facility usage as well as the time element in delivering these bleachers.

Motion by Mr. Girouard, seconded by Ms. Montemagni, to approve a request by Mr. Tim O'Grady to use Szot Park for their annual Police vs Patriots flag football games at a date to be determined.

Superintendent Walczak reported that a September 16, 2009 tour of Szot Park as part of the Gateway Grant proposal will take place at 10:00 a.m. Consultants will be required to submit three bound submittals for the scope of services to make Szot Park Complex a "green" stadium.

Community Development Projects are being finalized this fall with work still to be done at Ike Alpert Park, Lincoln Grove Park and Sarah Jane Park. A new water spray and a play equipment addition has been completed at Rivers Park.

A meeting with the School Department and the Parks Department was held to review the status of gym use by Holyoke Catholic High School. Practice times will be made available to Holyoke Catholic at Stefanik School and game times at old Chicopee High School. The Parks Department will also review the new Comp Softball field to provide some technical assistance for the turf conditions.

Superintendent Walczak reported on some maintenance projects that have been completed including the installation of new swings at Mandalay Mini-Park, new players benches at the 60' and 90' diamonds at Sarah Jane and Dana Parks, the addition of playground surfacing to several park play areas as well as new lighting for comfort stations at four parks.

Assistant Superintendent Maciolek indicated that soccer season will be starting in September at various sites. Reports on Opee Summer Adventures and the summer park & pool season will be available next month.

Commissioner Erhardt indicated that a new soccer group called the Chicopee Soccer Association has been formed to give all youth an opportunity to participate in the sport. There is no cost to belong to the groups and invites participants of all skill levels. Discussion was also held on a youth coach who was ejected from a game for the second season in a row. A letter will be sent to this coach suspending him from coaching for one year in violation of the Commission's zero tolerance policy.

Commissioner Montemagni complimented the Department on the continuing success of Camp Opee. Many favorable comments have been expressed about the program. She also praised the Department for the wonderful concert series at Aldenville Commons.

Superintendent Walczak issued the fall athletic schedules for the three high schools using park facilities. There are two additional squads which includes a Comp Freshmen girls soccer team and a Chicopee High Freshmen boys soccer team added to the schedule.

Superintendent Walczak indicated that ballfield work, recolorcoating some basketball courts, installing new bubblers and finishing C.D. projects are on the fall maintenance schedule.

Commissioner Erhardt stated that there are possible plans to form one Legion team for next season. There also may be some re-organization in forming a Jr. Legion team for 15-17 year olds.

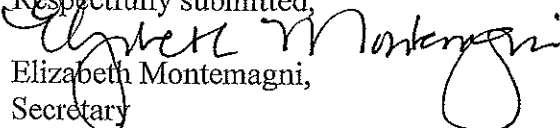
Discussion was held about the Suburban Basketball program. A recommendation was made to get coaches lined up quickly in anticipation of an October 13 week of tryouts for boys and girls teams and to be cori approved beforehand. A suggestion was also made to provide our Suburban coaches with department coaching shirts. The Department will also contact Mr. Jim Blain for assistance with a clinic with his High School Coaches.

Commissioner Fenton asked that the Litwin Park sign be installed again. The sign posts were broken and new lumber was ordered for the sign.

Motion by Mr. Girouard, seconded by Mr. Erhardt, to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Elizabeth Montemagni,  
Secretary